

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

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NATO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, YO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT-ELECT ON YUGOSLAVIA

1. THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S REMARKS ON
YUGOSLAVIA AT HIS NOVEMBER 4 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS:

0EGIN QUOTE:

Q: IN THE HEAT OF THE CAMPAIGN THINGS ARE SOMETIMES
SAID HASTILY, AND AS YOU OFTEN STRESSED, YOU ANSWERED
QUESTIONS BASED ON THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAD AT THE
MOMENT. ON THE SUBJECT OF YUGOSLAVIA IS IT CONCEIVABLE
THAT ONCE YOU'VE STUDIED THAT QUESTION FURTHER, YOU
MIGHT RESERVE YOUR OPTION AS PRESIDENT CONCERNING
ACTION BY THE SOVIET UNION THERE?

A: THAT'S A POSSIBILITY. I HAVE MADE MY POSITION

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ON YUGOSLAVIA CLEAR: THAT IF THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD

INVADE YUGOSLAVIA, THAT THIS WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY
SERIOUS BREACH OF PEACE. IT WOULD BE A THREAT TO
THE ENTIRE WORLD, AS FAR AS A PEACEFUL WORLD IS CON-
CERNED. IT WOULD MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO
CONTINUE UNDER THE BROAD GENERIC SENSE OF DETENTE.
AND WHETHER OR NOT WE ACTUALLY COMMITTED TROOPS TO

YUGOSLAVIA, WITH THE -- THE CONJECTURE OF MY OPINION
IS THAT THAT WOULD BE UNLIKELY -- PUT I WOULD HAVE
TO MAKE A DECISION ON A FINAL BASIS AT THAT POINT.
I MIGHT ADD THAT MY INFORMATION FROM YUGOSLAVIA HAS
BEEN THAT THE NATION IS STRONG MILITARILY, VERY HIGHLY
UNITED, VERY DEEPLY COMMITTED TO INDEPENDENCE AND
THAT THE CHANCE FOR A SOVIET INVASION WOULD BE EX-
TREMELY UNLIKELY. .ND QUOTE

2. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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